

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06
CCO-00 MCT-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 AID-05 PC-01
/094 W

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P R 201817Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5788
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6101

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, SHUM, PE
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON JULY 19 GENERAL STRIKE

REF: LIMA 6060

1. THE 24-HOUR JULY 19 GENERAL STRIKE CALLED BY THE MOSCOW-LINE LABOR CONFEDERATION (CGTP), WHILE NOT OBSERVED BY MANY UNIONS, SUCCEEDED IN INTERRUPTING INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN LIMA AND LED TO SEVERAL ISOLATED OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE THAT WERE QUICKLY CONTROLLED BY POLICE FORCES. THE STRIKE WAS LESS WIDELY OBSERVED IN OTHER CITIES IN PERU AND THERE ARE FEW REPORTS OF DISTURBANCES OUTSIDE OF LIMA. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF STRIKE ACTIVITY OR VIOLENT PROTESTS JULY 20. BUSINESSES ARE OPEN AGAIN, BUSSES ARE RUNNING, AND WORKERS HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS.

2. THE JULY 19 VIOLENCE CENTERED ON THE DISRUPTION OF A NEW MAIN ROADS LEADING INTO LIMA, MOSTLY BY ROCK-THROWING GROUPS OF YOUTH AND WORKERS. GOP REPORTS SIX DEATHS AND NUMEROUS INJURIES.

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THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS OF MANY ARRESTS. ALSO, GOVERNMENT OFFICES WERE ATTACKED AND BURNED IN ONE OUTLYING LIMA AREA. ALL REPORTS INDICATE CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT ON THE PART OF POLICE AND ARMY TROOPS IN CONTROLLING THE DISTURBANCE.

3. A NUMBER OF LABOR LEADERS, INCLUDING EDUARDO CASTILLO SANCHEZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CGTP, AND VICTOR SANCHEZ

ZAPATA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SMALLER BUT ALLIED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LABOR CONFEDERATION (CNT), HAVE BEEN DETAINED BY GOP. APAR-BACKED (CTP) UNIONS, ESPECIALLY THE IMPORTANT SUGAR PRODUCERS UNIONS IN THE NORTH, DID NOT SUPPORT THE STRIKE. THE FAR-LEFT BANK WORKERS UNIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND MINE WORKERS UNIONS IN TOQUEPALA AND ILO WERE KEY ELEMENTS IN THE PARTIAL STRIKE OBSERVANCE OUTSIDE OF LIMA.

4. EXTREMELY NOTABLE WAS THE COVERAGE OF THE STRIKE AND THE OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS & TV. ALL JULY 20 DAILIES FEATURED DETAILED AND APPARENTLY ACCURATE REPORTS ON THE EXTENT OF THE STRIKE AND THE INSTANCES OF VIOLENCE. PHOTOGRAPHIC DISPLAYS OF PROTESTING MOBS AND ROCK-STREWN STREETS WERE DISPLAYED AS WELL. NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS KILLED AND ALSO SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS DETAINED BY POLICE WERE ALSO FEATURED. THIS COMPLETE AND PROMINENT REPORTING CONTRASTS SHARPLY WITH THE ALMOST TOTAL OFFICIAL SILENCE UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO THE STRIKE AND THE VERY SKIMPY COVERAGE OF DISTURBANCES IN OTHER CITIES THE PAST FEW WEEKS.

5. COMMENT: THE GOP HAS WEATHERED THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF THE "ILLEGAL" JULY 19 STRIKE THROUGH QUICK, THOROUGH, AND YET GENERALLY RESTRAINED POLICE ACTION. THEY DID NOT GIVE THE COMMUNIST AND FAR-LEFT ORGANIZERS OF THE STRIKE THE PROBABLY HOPED-FOR HEAVY-HANDED RESPONSE IN THE FACE OF SCATTERED PROVOCATIONS. A GREAT DEAL OF THE SUCCESS OF THE STRIKE IN SHARPLY

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CURTAILING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ACTIVITY IN LIMA CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE ALMOST TOTAL INTERRUPTION OF TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE CITY WHICH MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR MANY NON-STRIKING WORKERS TO GET TO THEIR JOBS. ALSO A LARGE NUMBER OF SHOPS AND SMALL BUSINESS WERE CLOSED AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE AGAINST POSSIBLE DAMAGE BY VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS.

SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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